

# TSOUTHERN IDINGS



SPRING MEADOWS CHURCH



POINCIANA CHURCH

*Investing Money in Mission*  

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**SOUTHERN UNION REVOLVING FUND**

## God's Combination Effect

“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder,” Matthew 19:6.

It is a trait of humankind to take apart. Boys start with family property. Men pry into the Creator's secrets. Barium sulfate, used for ingestion for taking X-rays of the digestive tract, is an example of a conjoint substance. Barium, when not compounded with sulfate, is very poisonous.

This planet trembles under the treat of nuclear insanity. The laboratory has found a way to take the atom apart and disturb its organization. The next time you look at ordinary table salt (sodium chloride) remember that sodium reacts forcefully when exposed to water, and carries with it explosive elements. In addition, chlorine is a death-dealing explosive gas.

God has built a harmony and a balance into His universe. It doesn't take long to make that discovery.

This thought of joining pinpoints a simple message. There are many things that belong together. They complement and strengthen each other. When separated, they become enemy of the public rather than its friends.

Parent and children belong together. It is a natural and God-ordained as the combination of infant dependency and a mother's love. The hatred, the venom, the riot, the anarchy disturbing youth today is the result of trifling with this combination.

God takes oxygen and hydrogen, both of them odorless, tasteless, and colorless, and He combines them with carbon, which is insoluble, black, and tasteless. The result of this combination is sugar.

God deposits a handful of sand in the heart of the Earth. Great heat is applied from beneath and ponderous weight from above until, when it is found by man, it has been miraculously changed into a dazzling fiery opal. Doing it God's way ensures beauty and success. It is critical to point out that this text has its roots in the conversation between Jesus and the Pharisees about marriage. Marriage is a contract designed by God to fuse two distinct personality types and make the union work for good. If marriage isn't the answer, what is? There is a ground-swell during this age that clamors for alternative approaches to marriage. North American society has dimensions that cry out: “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us,” Psalm 2:3. Doing that would heighten the risk of helping to unleash more misery on Earth than nuclear warfare.

There is something else that is joined together. It is evangelism and social action. We have a responsibility toward God and toward man. You cannot separate the one from the other without making the Christian message a negative one. I cannot conceive of any person, reconciled to God, enjoying an inward peace, who does not want to share. It is just too good to keep to one's self. Social action carries with it the mandate to allow Christ to be seen, heard, and felt. Acts of service that carry no thought of suffering, love, compassion, and concern for reconciliation is empty if there is no risk, no cross to bear, and no chance for self-giving.

God has set the combinations. Notice the combination of grace and justice in Christ's love toward you that will carry you through the challenges of womanhood and manhood. I challenge all women and men who dig into this special issue to allow God to join you to Himself. You will discover that nothing can separate you from the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 8:29).



**Ron C. Smith,**  
**D.Min., Ph.D.**  
*President of the  
Southern Union  
Conference*

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SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE  
302 Research Drive  
Norcross, Georgia 30092 • Mail Address  
P.O. Box 923868, Norcross, Georgia 30010  
Telephone (770) 408-1800  
www.southernunion.com

## Staff

**Editor** R. STEVEN NORMAN III  
**Managing Editor** IRISENE DOUCE  
**Circulation** BOBBIE MILLBURN  
**Advertising** NATHAN ZINNER  
**Production** COLLEGE PRESS  
**Layout** BRIAN WIEHN

## Contributing Editors

**Adventist Health System** RAINEY TURLINGTON  
**Adventist University of Health Sciences** DALLAS SACHSE  
**Carolina** RON QUICK  
**CREATION Health** LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN  
**Florida** MARTIN BUTLER  
**Georgia-Cumberland** TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER  
**Gulf States** NILTON GARCIA  
**Hispanic** MARIEL LOMBARDI  
**Kentucky-Tennessee** STEVE ROSE  
**Oakwood University** GEORGE JOHNSON JR.  
**South Atlantic** WHITNEY JORDAN  
**South Central** MARVIN ALLISON  
**Southeastern** ROBERT HENLEY  
**Southern Adventist University** LUCAS PATTERSON

## Conference/Institution Directory

CAROLINA (704) 596-3200  
P.O. Box 44270, Charlotte, NC 28215  
FLORIDA (407) 644-5000  
P.O. Box 2626, Winter Park, FL 32790-2626  
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND (706) 629-7951  
P.O. Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703-7001  
GULF STATES (334) 272-7493  
P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36117  
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE (615) 859-1391  
P.O. Box 1088, Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1088  
SOUTH ATLANTIC (404) 792-0535  
P.O. Box 92447, M.B., Sta., Atlanta, GA 30314  
SOUTH CENTRAL (615) 226-6500  
P.O. Box 24936, Nashville, TN 37202  
SOUTHEASTERN (352) 735-3142  
P.O. Box 1016, Mt. Dora, FL 32756-0056  
ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM (407) 357-2482  
900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF  
HEALTH SCIENCES (800) 500-7747  
671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803  
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY (256) 726-7000  
7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896  
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY (800) SOUTHERN  
P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

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COVER CAPTION: *Renderings of Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Florida, and Poinciana Church in Poinciana, Florida*



*Orlando Lopez (left), associate pastor of Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Florida; Judy Anderson, Spring Meadows Church treasurer; Bob Boggess, associate pastor and building coordinator of Spring Meadows Church; Stephanie Moss, interior designer; and Frank Ottati, pastor of Spring Meadows Church, review the progress the Southern Union Revolving Fund has enabled them to make on their new sanctuary.*

# **SURF** – *An Answer to Prayer*

BY OLSON PERRY

## **The Poinciana Church Miracle**

It was all on schedule. The target goals were in place. The architectural surveys had been done. Full scale plans had been prepared. Plumbing and electrical permits had been approved. Financing had been discussed and approved by the vari-

ous committees. The foundation was now poured, and the footings put in place. Everything was in place for the 300-member Poinciana Church in Poinciana, Florida; or so it seemed. Little did they know their world was about to fall apart.

The congregation, which had been renting for 17 years while wishing for a church building of its own, raising funds at every opportunity, and building confidence for a loan from a bank, having been pre-approved, was ready for the next step.



PHOTO BY STEVEN NORMAN III

arrived, he asked the congregation what was its priority. The overwhelming response was, “Complete the church.”

Edwards estimated he needed \$1 million-plus to finish the project. He immediately went into overdrive. He brainstormed with his building and finance committees as they took a look at the various options. He brainstormed with his Southeastern Conference president, Hubert Morel Jr., and Randy Robinson, Southern Union treasurer and vice president of the Southern Union Revolving Fund (SURF). The Conference had reached its borrowing limit with SURF. Edwards wouldn’t stop. He asked Florida Conference to back him up, as he had done successfully on a previous project at another location. It didn’t have that lifting power, but recommended Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

After months of hard work, convincing potential investors of Poinciana’s needs, negotiating with conference leaders, supernaturally guided phone calls missed and unmissed, and much prayer, SURF approved a loan to the Poinciana Church in the amount of \$1 million-plus to complete the building project, with an endorsement from Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

Edwards says, “I thank God for everything ... and the financial supporters. My wife and I have been supporters of SURF from the time we learned about it and its mission. We have also encouraged the churches and the current group that I oversee to do the same. So please join us with your financial and sacrificial investment so that other churches like Poinciana will experience this miracle.”

### Spring Meadows Challenge

Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Florida, is the result of the Winter Springs Church and Seminole Church merge on the Seminole location with its large acreage. The combined years of existence is about 50. This congregation of 800 members was bursting at its seams while burdened with a \$2,000 a week rental

facility. If a member wanted one of the 500 seats, he or she had to arrive at Sabbath School on time. The congregation had to do something.

Associate pastor and building coordinator, Bob Boggess, rallied members in a capital campaign. Having a demographic of stable, financially sound committed members with a good spread of seasoned members, growing families with more than 100 children in cradle roll, primary, and youth with an additional sprinkling of college students, he felt his congregation had the resources and the ability to garner adequate financing to meet the policy of 80 percent cash in hand. The campaign generated \$1.5 million.

Once the basic building shell was completed so worship services could be held, Boggess and the finance committee explored their financial options of completing the 66,000 square foot project. The Southern Union Revolving Fund provided the best option.

“SURF enables facilities to grow,” says Boggess, “Adventists are the envy of other denominations. Most don’t have a borrowing mechanism like SURF. With SURF, a congregation can borrow at extremely reduced costs with the support of the conferences,” he says.

### The SURF Plan

SURF is a structured mechanism for providing capital for projects in the Southern Union. It is a ministry in the form of granting loans for school projects, and to churches and building projects such as construction, acquisition, and renovation. It is an investment where the greatest immediate reward is knowing you have partnered with God and fellow Christians in ministry. And, the financial reward is receiving an interest rate higher than any bank is currently paying.

You can be a part of this unique and exclusive ministry. It is open to anyone, but it is unique and exclusive because it takes a person committed to God’s cause to see the blessings of providing funds for properties, equipment, and physi-

Members raised funds by working overtime while raiding their savings, youth and children scurried to find ways to help in fundraising, and one sister put her home up as collateral to purchase the 10 acre property. These funds were put to use to start the building project until the road-block.

The property had to be raised due to the low terrain. The bank reneged on the loan agreement. The funds in hand were now being exhausted. And, the pastor, Maxwell Berkel, was now being assigned to another congregation.

When Lewis Edwards, D.Min.,

cal structures which will enhance worship to God, fellowship with others, and educational advantages for children and youth. You may not be able to travel as a missionary to foreign lands. You may not have the stamina to distribute truth filled literature. You may not have the skills to physically help in constructing an

assisted living home; however as an investor in SURF, you know you are partnering with others in helping to build God's kingdom.

The family of investors in the Southern Union has made SURF the largest revolving fund in the North American Division, providing loans in the millions without losing any invested funds in its history; it is a ministry reaching out across the Union territory.

A church may borrow up to a maximum of four times its average annual tithe, and the local conference underwrites the loan. Currently, the borrowing interest rate is three-and-a-quarter percent (maximum term of a loan is 20 years). Loans of more than \$99,999 require a mortgage, which is held by the Southern Union Revolving Fund, Inc.

Investors in SURF have continually appreciated the safety of their funds. Eighty percent of funds are invested in loans to institutions. Unloaned SURF funds (a maximum of 20 percent of available funds) are invested in fixed income instruments, the majority of which are government, corporate, and foreign issued, according to Carlos Salazar, director of SURF.

"We loan up to a maximum of



*William K. Duncan (left), Joel Baptist, and Lewis Edwards, pastor of Poinciana Church in Poinciana, Florida, share with Carlos Salazar, director of the Southern Union Revolving Fund, how God has blessed their 370-member church to build through the generosity of members and by partnering with SURF for a low-interest loan.*

R. STEVEN NORMAN III

that any investment comes with a certain amount of risk. The investment is unsecured, non-negotiable, and non-transferable. A SURF investment is a 90-day demand note; however, withdrawal requests are usually fulfilled in less than a week.

A SURF investor can be any Adventist individual living in the Southern Union, revocable trusts can be invested in SURF, and other Adventist entities such as churches and organizations may

also invest. Interest is compounded monthly and paid quarterly. You can open a regular investment account with SURF through your local conference. A minimum of \$1,000 is all that is needed.

Salazar shares that some individuals simply want to do something. They invest in SURF then realize the financial benefits. Then there are others who invest for the financial returns. They don't understand what is happening. They later realize they are in a partnership investing in ministry, and the spiritual blessings come from the satisfaction and joy of knowing they helped build a church, school, or youth chapel for fellowship.

80 percent of available funds keeping the remaining 20 percent in liquid investments," says Randy Robinson. "In addition we keep another 25 percent equivalent of loaned funds on hand as a 'just in case of an emergency fund.'" Financial managers marvel at SURF's investor safety since its inception. During the country's economic slump SURF investors showed economic gain. The financial advisors and fund managers used by SURF exercise extreme prudence. The safety of the fund is in the secured loans guaranteed by the conferences.

"Where else can you get this kind of safety with a one-and-a-quarter percent interest rate?" exclaimed Robinson. "This kind of security on the market would yield at most one-quarter percent. SURF is currently paying one-and-a-quarter percent." The mechanism is built with redundant safety nets: safe investments, "just in case funds," and conference backing. Despite these incredible precautions, the returns are way more than market rate, and the greatest reward of all is knowing these funds are being invested in ministry, and ministry is happening.

Despite the safety of SURF investments, investors are reminded

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Call Carlos Salazar at the Southern Union Revolving Fund at 770-408-1800, x121

"SURF is a ministry to facilitate growth which in turn facilitates spiritual growth."  
—Pastor Robert Boggess

# Braille Readers' Club Studies ADVENTIST BELIEFS

BY DEXTER THOMAS, D.MIN.

Every week, a secular organization for the blind, located in West Palm Beach, hosts an educational ministry—the West Palm Beach Braille Readers' Club — where visually challenged adults learn to read braille using the 28 fundamental beliefs of Adventism as their study materials.

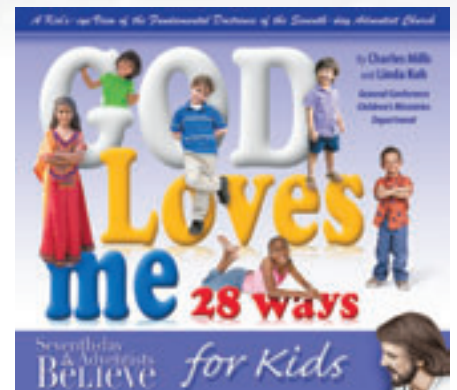
Dexter Thomas, D.Min., Florida Conference disabilities coordinator, designed the curriculum with the help of members from several local

as the basis of the study materials.

Each lesson highlights one of the fundamental beliefs to illustrate a braille concept. He explains one of the many contractions in braille, and then the students read a fundamental belief to see how it uses the contraction. “Blind individuals improve their braille literacy and, at the same time, learn these precious biblical truths,” said Thomas, who is blind.

Every bit as important as the lessons is the fellowship. “We advertised our free braille classes as a fun and exciting learning experience with food, friendship, and fellowship,” said Thomas. “The food and fellowship doesn't only attract the visually challenged. It also attracts their caregivers and other church members who create a warm, non-threatening ministry environment.”

Five local Adventist congregations staff the West Palm Beach Braille Readers' Club: First Church of West Palm Beach, Communities West



PACIFIC PRESS



WILLIAM VERDEKAL

*Dexter Thomas (second from left) has a doctor of ministry degree and teaches a braille class at West Palm Beach Braille Readers' Club. “Visually impaired individuals are accustomed to people rushing by and feeling lonely in a sighted world,” he said. “When we reached out to them, we were able to bring confidence and assurance that there are still people in the world who care.”*

churches. Because of its brevity and simplicity, Thomas used the children's version of the 28 fundamental beliefs

Church in Loxahatchee, Palm Springs Church of West Palm Beach, South Palm Company of Delray Beach, and Boynton Beach Church. The generosity of members in these churches has also funded the braille books used in the sessions.

Thomas would like to see these Braille Readers' Clubs formed in communities throughout Florida. It is surprisingly easy to run such a Club. The church receives a manual that explains how to organize and run a Club, and the church provides volunteers and refreshments.

“Our prayer is for such a ministry to spread throughout the Conference. Churches can partner with the disabled and their families for their wholeness, and give them a foretaste of the unconditional love and acceptance we will all experience in the Earth made new,” said Thomas.

# CAROLINA CONFERENCE GOES TO CUBA

BY HASKELL WILLIAMS

A team of “12 apostles” left the comfort of the Carolinas bound for Holguin, the fourth largest city of the Republic of Cuba on January 22, 2014. These ShareHim volunteers included, among others, a civilian logistic officer, a physician’s assistant, a dentist, a management instructor, a retired professor and a mechanical engineer. Their mission: to share the Everlasting Gospel with the people of the Province of Holguin.

The evangelists came from several churches throughout the Carolinas and preached in varied churches in the Eastern Association (Conference) of Seventh-day Adventists — from downtown Holguin, a city of more than a quarter-million, to the village of Potrerillo, so small that its 100 homes don’t appear on many maps. In each of the churches the evangelists found warm-hearted fellow believers who were praying for God’s harvest.

## My First Time

Before this trip to Cuba, Carlos Ortega had never preached before. He was nervous. Even his son tried to dissuade him, “Dad, are you sure?” But he had a jump on all the other team members — he was fluent in Spanish. “I had very good response,” he said. And though it was his first experience preaching, 21 people were baptized from his site.

Ortega was even able to witness to his taxi driver each night as they drove to and from Cueto. The “taxi driver” was actually a talented orthopedic surgeon who specialized in

hands. This doctor, whose monthly salary is only \$25, was earning a little extra cash using his 1950s Pontiac to transport Ortega nightly from Holguin to Cueto.

Beverly Winsted had pictured herself doing volunteer medical work after she retired, but God nudged her to join the ShareHim team mission to Cuba instead.



Cuban congregation



Winsted had never preached an evangelist sermon before, much less a series, but she was amazed by the enthusiasm of her listeners. “People of all ages responded,” she recounted.

One man asked for help in getting rid of a spiritualistic idol. He was also a heavy smoker, but on the last Sabbath he joined his mother and brother in baptism, joyful in his new freedom in Christ. That night as the team gathered to

He was steeped in cynical atheism, having worked in the Siberian oilfields during the 1990s. But each night his wife, Nereyda, gathered a small group to pray for Haskell Williams, Carolina Conference ministerial/evangelism director, and the meetings in Alcides Pino.

Robiel began attending during the first week, and then he came every night. “It was a shock to everyone who knew him when he came forward to be baptized,” Williams

noted. But there was also a surprise for Robiel. Through special arrangements with the Association president, Robiel’s son, an elder in the church, had the privilege of baptizing his father.

Having fallen in love with the Cuban people through previous Share-Him campaigns,

Mary Ann Roberts, Ph.D., jumped at the chance of holding a fourth campaign in Cuba. On a previous trip, her husband, at the time was not an Adventist, came along for the unusual opportunity to visit Havana. Roberts asked him to keep an eye on the equipment at the meetings.

During the final meeting, he was the first one to respond to the appeal to be baptized.

On the first night of this trip the sermon graphics did not work, so Roberts, known as “Ms. ShareHim” because of her numerous campaigns around the world, gave her personal

testimony instead. It was compelling. People could identify and see how God had transformed her life.

The Spartanburg Church sent a team of evangelists: Jerry LaFave, pastor; his wife, Barbara LaFave (who had come because of a last-minute cancellation); Ron Fowler, D.M.D.; and Patricia Davis. LaFave was impressed by the commitment of church support and their dedication to attend nightly. In Delicias where he spoke, as in most other churches, many of those attending had worked long hours in sugar cane fields, then traveled several kilometers in trucks, carts, or on foot to hear the Word of God.

LaFave reported, “One individual, who had not been an Adventist very long, worked diligently to get 45 guests to attend. He is actively giving Bible studies. His 78-year-old mother was won to the Lord during the meetings. I had the privilege to baptize her in the ocean in front of her home.” This new member has been instrumental in establishing a home Bible study group that meets weekly in this very poor community.

Leslie Louis, president of the Carolina Conference, set the example of evangelistic service by leading this all-Carolina team. Hundreds of visitors were present each night in the Central Holguin Church as he spoke. Many had travelled dozens of kilometers to hear the Word. Louis committed to finding partners to raise the funds



Leslie Louis (left), president of the Carolina Conference, stands with Conference personnel, pastors, and lay workers in Cuba.

recount God’s victories, everyone but Winsted was present. Finally the yellow 1942 Chevrolet taxi drove up with her beaming. She wouldn’t leave the church until the last of the 38 people who had responded were baptized.

“Life-changing.” That is how Gary Himmelwright describes his Cuba experience. “There were a huge number of children,” he says, “Sixty-two of them — all visitors.” Every day Himmelwright tailored his messages to reach his young audience and designed ways to engage them in the message. “All wanted to give their hearts to Jesus, so we had a special altar call just for the children.” Though they were too young to be baptized at that time, their commitment is recorded in Heaven.

### Surprise!

Robiel was a hardened secularist who adamantly opposed his son’s and wife’s involvement in church.



Magdiel Laramendy (second from right), pastor of Alcides Pino Church, poses with Cuban members.

for a church structure in a remote village called Pedernalis. Through God's providence and the generosity of the members, the amount has been raised and exceeded!

#### “Side Benefits”

To find translators fluent in English, Luis Leonor, ShareHim trip coordinator, was forced to hire several individuals who were not members of the Adventist church. Himmelwright's translator was a teacher of socialistic philosophy at the local college. What started as a chance to earn more money profoundly impacted his thinking, and demeanor, as Himmelwright unfolded the soundness of God's Word.

Since her interpreter had no religious background, Roberts let her take the laptop home so she could become familiar with the sermons. The interpreter kept exclaiming, “This is so beautiful!” As the Holy Spirit touched her there was a marked change in her appearance. Since returning home, Roberts received an email inviting her to come back for her baptism.

LaFave's translator was the wife of a Baptist minister (and the child of three generations of Baptist ministers). She was truly moved by the nightly messages, and expressed several times that the meetings were for her, too. “She had serious questions to ask about our faith and requested a copy of *The Great Controversy*, which we presented to her at our last meeting,” said LaFave. “Through our ongoing communication, we're praying for her acceptance of God's last day message of truth.”

Barbara LaFave's translator, a

Pentecostal, made her decision to join the church. She and Barbara continue in communication. She said that she visited her former congregation and found it unappreciative of the new truths she had learned. Though she lives some distance from Palmarito, she longs to get back. The Carolina ShareHim team solicits your prayers for her and all of the translators, as well as the 134 individuals who were baptized, and more than 400 who made decisions to accept Christ and prepare for baptism.

#### Future Plans

“I would love to do [an evangelistic series] every month if I could,” Ortega says. Already he and his pastor are planning for outreach in his home church in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Winsted's pastor asked her to do a ShareHim series in her home church in High Point, North Carolina. She knows that groundwork needs to be done first, and is looking at people's needs and interests. Community services, ads in newspapers, and surveys are some things she is considering.

Roberts does several homeland campaigns each year. She is looking at renting a small storefront in a shopping mall that, with a large screen, could be turned into a mini-theater. Before doing a series, however, she wants to create interest.

Himmelwright is excited about possibly doing a ShareHim series in Ethiopia using one of his High Point Pathfinders (a native of Ethiopia) as an interpreter and associate speaker.

Louis and Williams are each planning to hold a series of evange-



*Beverly Winsted preaches at San German Church in Cuba.*

listic meetings this year in Hickory and Rocky Mount, North Carolina respectively. They solicit prayers for those who will hear.

For those who want to experience the joy of soul-winning, the Carolina Conference is planning a ShareHim campaign in 2015 (late January or early February) to Central or South America. Plan now and watch for upcoming details on the website [www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org) or in the *Carolina Action*.

If we care about others, or only care to finish the work so that we can go home, we must share the hope — ShareHim. But, how much better if we do it from genuine love for those who are perishing.

*Haskell Williams is the ministerial/evangelism director at the Carolina Conference.*



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JULIE KROLL

# Blessing and Being Blessed

BY KRIS FUENTES

*The choir with their tour coordinator and translator Frank Artavia.*

The Madisonians, the Madison Academy choir under the direction of Waldemar Wensell, just returned from a musical mission trip to Costa Rica. While on the trip, the choir travelled more than 1,000 miles, performed 22 times for more than 4,000 people at a variety of venues including an evangelistic series, a church plant in a tourist town, three libraries, city hall, the conference office, primary and secondary schools, two universities, and a soccer camp for at-risk teenagers sponsored by ADRA and the U.S. Embassy.

They shared the gospel with lifetime Adventists and with non-Christians. They ministered in cathedrals, in the halls of a geriatric hospital, in a Nicaraguan immigrant community, and even provided music at the last minute for the funeral of the bus driver's brother-in-law.

Thanks to Frank and Rodrigo, the guide and driver, the choir experienced the culture and flavor of "pura vida" or "pure life". While there, the



*The choir during a warm up session*

a people truly hungry for the gospel and eager for our Lord's return, as it provided them a front-row seat to experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as Christians and non-Christians alike acknowledged that the "Angels from heaven were singing."

God's providential leading and His intervention in the lives of His people was evident and the students not only blessed, but were blessed. How wonderful to get out of the classroom, out of the church pews, out of the comfort zone and experience "pura vida."

students tasted some of the best fruit in the world and ate many different South and Central American foods. They enjoyed zip-lining through the Costa Rican canopy and traveled to the rim of an active volcano.

This musical mission trip pushed the students to reach deep within themselves and sing, though their voices were fatigued. It required them to rely on God for physical strength as sleep was at times fleeting. They witnessed first-hand



*The choir on a zip line excursion*

JULIE KROLL

JULIE KROLL

# 24 ... He Deserves It

BY MARVIN L. ALLISON SR.

As I was traveling to Jackson, Mississippi, for the 2014 South Central Conference Youth Congress, I questioned how I should write the article this year. Truthfully, I expected more of the same. The youth would travel from all over the Conference, the hotel lobby would be jammed, and friends would share in the excitement of seeing each other again.

“24 He Deserves It,” was this year’s theme. Wayne Hewlett, South Central associate youth director, opened the Congress with an emphasis on 24. What would it be like if we spent 24 seconds with God alone, even 24 minutes alone with God? But, better yet, what would it be like if we spent 24 hours alone with God? Interesting thought.

Kymone Hynes, pastor of Overton Park Church in Memphis, Tennessee, taught the youth the value and importance of praying for others; therefore, each prayer session focused on intercessory prayer. As the prayer emphasis went forward, there were beneficial elements. Each young person wrote their name on a wristband and turned it in, and then they all went up front and grabbed a wristband off the table of someone they didn’t know and put the wristband on. They were then challenged to pray for four things: wisdom, health, their walk with God, and their relationships with family and friends for the person whose name was on the wristband throughout the Congress. They were to pray 24 seconds, 24 times each day.

Another prayer exercise saw the delegates placing a prayer request in balloons, blowing them up, and then batting the balloons around the auditorium. At the command to stop, each delegate grabbed a balloon to take



Vandeon Griffin, South Central youth director, unveils the new youth ministries logo.

back to their hotel rooms, where they were to pop the balloon and pray for that request.

There was also a prayer session where one had to text someone back home and let them know that right at that moment attendees at the Congress were praying for them. Prayer became an integral part of this year’s Youth Congress. Teaching young people the value of interceding for others really made the Congress better.

Not only has intercessory prayer become a major component of Youth Congress 24 He Deserves It, community services has also been implanted in the fertile hearts and minds of the youth. Community services consisted of planting trees and flowers, feeding the homeless, and painting walls at the shelter.

Another aspect that was helpful in training young minds to be like Jesus was the complimenting exercise. Each delegate was challenged to compliment 24 individuals they never met before. It was refreshing to see the youth take this challenge seriously.

Sabbath was welcomed in with yet another 24 challenge. This time it was a 24-hour challenge. Spend 24 hours communing with God in His presence.

One highlight this year was when the Conference youth director, Vandeon Griffin, was invested as a Master Guide. Lorenzo Shepard, former

South Central youth director, had the privilege of placing the vestments on Griffin. The new South Central youth ministries logo was also unveiled — “Building a Generation One Youth at a Time.”

Sabbath afternoon was the Pathfinder Parade and Rally in the Park to bring awareness to the plight of homelessness. Just before the Sabbath ended, individuals from the community flocked into the convention center. Gospel phenomenon and two-time Grammy Award-winning artist Tye Tribbet was the featured guest for the evening’s praise concert.

Each speaker for Youth Congress had something of exceptional value to offer the delegates. The speakers included Kirk Franklin, multi-award-winning recipient; Greg Nelson, pastor of Madison Mission Church in Huntsville, Alabama; Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First Church in Huntsville;



Attendees text a person back home to let them know they are being prayed for during the Youth Congress.

and Dana Edmond, president of South Central Conference.

Vandeon Griffin reports, “The students from Youth Congress repeatedly shared with me their excitement about going back to their homes and churches and creating an atmosphere of excitement for the Sabbath, and spending 24 hours with Jesus ... ‘He Deserves It.’”

## Nurse Sews for Breast Cancer Patients at Florida Hospital Flagler

As a registered nurse in Florida Hospital Flagler's Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), Vicki O'Hanlon is one of the first health care providers to attend to women with breast cancer immediately after their mastectomy. Here, she, along with a team of critical care nurses, closely monitors patients and assists them in their initial moments after surgery, when they are "waking up" from anesthesia. It is in the PACU where patients begin their recovery back to health.

As part of the mastectomy procedure, patients have a post-operative Jackson Pratt drain inserted to collect bodily fluid from

the surgery site for two to three weeks as they heal. These drains simply hang from the body, and can be inconvenient and even uncomfortable.

Seeing the need, O'Hanlon, who happens to be a skilled seamstress, decided to do something to help these women. During her personal time, she began sewing "drain pouches" for Florida Hospital Flagler mastectomy patients. The pouches, which O'Hanlon sews in an array of colors and patterns, are worn like a cross-body purse and hold the drains, making them more comfortable during the healing process.



"Going through a mastectomy is a very difficult experience, and I am happy to be able to make it just a little bit easier by sewing and providing the

pouches," O'Hanlon said. "It makes me feel good to be able to provide a bit of comfort to our patients."

Working in the PACU, O'Hanlon can spot patients who would benefit from her homemade pouches. She helps patients select a design they like and explains how to use it. If a patient has had a double mastectomy, she gives them two pouches.

"I designed the pouches to be soft and machine washable," O'Hanlon said. "One patient told me that they are so comfortable, she even wears it in the shower."

—BY LINDSAY REW

## Multi-Hospital Competition Improves Stroke Care

Six Adventist Health System hospitals with award-winning primary stroke centers recently participated in an intramural competition to further reduce the time it takes stroke patients to receive brain-saving treatment.

The goal was specifically to lower the door-to-needle times for patients who are having an Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS), which occurs when there is blockage in a vessel that delivers blood to the brain. Tissue plasminogen activator or "clot buster"

is a medication given to patients with AIS. The earlier this medication is given to patients, the better their outcomes are.

During the six-month competition, median

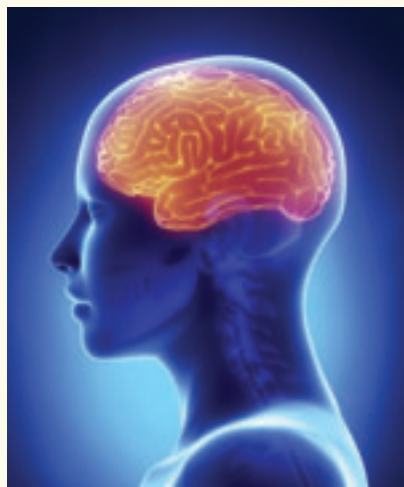
door-to-needle times were reduced from 72 minutes to 54 minutes for the participating hospitals. In addition, the patients observed during the competition had shorter lengths of stay, and more were discharged to their homes or a rehabilitation facility.

A poster featuring this competition was presented in February at the American Heart Association's 2014 International Stroke Conference in San Diego, Calif. The participating hospitals — Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, Florida Hospital Altamonte, Florida Hospital Orlando, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, and

Shawnee Mission Medical Center — are part of a national forum of Seventh-day Adventist hospitals that collaborate to exchange ideas and improve stroke care.

"Our forum is expanding and recently announced plans for a stroke core measure improvement project, and collaboration with the University of Texas at Houston to better assess outcomes after acute stroke intervention," said Evan Allen, M.D., medical director of the Florida Hospital Stroke Program and director of the stroke forum.

—BY KATIE RICHARDSON



## New York Times Bestselling Author Speaks at Adventist University Colloquium

Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) held their most recent University Colloquium on March 19, 2014. The University Colloquium is designed to engage students, faculty, staff, and community members in conversation. This year's theme was Moral Courage and, to go along with that, ADU asked Rebecca Skloot, author of the number one *New York Times* Bestseller *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, to come speak.

Skloot told her story of how she once sat in biology class learning about these immortal "HeLa" cells that have helped to advance science in so many ways. Her teacher informed her that they were from an African American woman who died. She asked her teacher, "What else do we know about her? Does she have any kids? What do they think about all this?" He responded with, "Sorry, nobody knows anything." The idea was spellbinding to Skloot that so little was known about something so big. She said, "It lit this fire under me, this real curiosity about science and school." She gained more of an interest in school after that, and eventually went on to a four-year college.

Years later Skloot decided to research these "HeLa" cells and found that they belonged to a woman by the name of Henrietta Lacks. That's where scientists had originated the



name "HeLa" cells. It had been decades since Lacks had passed away and the cells were originally used. After doing some digging, Skloot was able to find the whereabouts of Lacks' children (who were now grown), and reached out to them to try to learn more about their mother's story.

However, what she found wasn't what she had expected. Lacks' children didn't understand what had happened with their mother's cells. Scientists had come to them throughout the years to try to test some of their own cells but they thought that it was to see if they had cancer like their mother. They didn't know that their mother's cells had been taken so long ago and that they were still being replicated and used for research. They weren't interested in listening to Skloot. They didn't trust anyone.

Over time, Skloot

began to gain their trust. She dug deep into the family's history to provide them with answers that they wanted. Their mother died when they were very young, so learning anything about who she was meant something to them.

Due to the perseverance of Skloot's research, we have learned that Henrietta Lacks was an African American woman in the 1950s who was diagnosed with cancer and had no insurance. After performing various tests on her cells, scientists found that her cancer cells could replicate and become immortal. They began to replicate and sell them without her know-

ing. Over time, these cells were vital in developing the polio and HPV vaccines, cloning, gene mapping, in-vitro fertilization, and much more.

Skloot never gave up on Lacks' story. She explained what she likes to call a "what moment." They are moments in life that make you stop and go "wait, what?" It was a moment like she had in biology class so long ago. She believes in asking questions and pursuing curiosity. That is what helped to get her so far in her research. Students often attend the Colloquium to learn more about certain topics, to practice active listening, or simply for community involvement. Skloot left them specifically with some advice. She said,



"Don't have tunnel vision. Let your curiosity and passion get the best of you!"

—BY DALLAS SACHSE

## Conference Evangelist Retires After Decades of Service

Since 1991 Dale Pollett has been the evangelist for the Carolina Conference. He plans to retire this year; however, he quickly states that he's not totally retiring. He plans to continue conducting meetings, only not as many of them.

Thinking back over his years of evangelism ministry, Pollett recalls that the most successful meetings have been those where the church was actively involved in the preparation and follow-up for their campaign. And where church members earnestly prayed for the success of the event.

There are many miraculous stories that this evangelist can tell. He fondly recalls one young man from Spartanburg, S.C., who received a colorful brochure in the mail. The young man, along with his wife, attended the meetings. At the conclusion of the event he and his wife



RON QUICK

were baptized. "What's so thrilling about this," Pollett recalls, "is that this man, Jeff Donaldson, went on to Andrews University and the seminary. Today he's one of our pastors right here in Carolina."

Another story that comes to Pollett's mind is when he held an evangelics event in Charleston, S.C.



RON QUICK

"We pulled out all the stops," Pollett recalls, "We bought television time, we had newspaper ads along with direct mail, and radio — we did it all." The array of advertising made such an impact that it got the attention of the religion editor of the Charleston newspaper. The reporter phoned the pastor and asked, "What's going on at your church? I see all this advertising... would you mind if I come to the meetings?"

The reporter came out on opening night along with his photographer, sat through the meeting, and afterward interviewed some of those who attended the meeting.

There was some con-



CONTRIBUTED

cern that the article may not be favorable, or at the least would be buried inside where it wouldn't be noticed.

But when they went to the news stand the next day to pick up a paper, they were amazed to see that it made the front page above the fold, and was on display in every news stand in town. "Well, that definitely brought out more people the next night," Pollett remembers.

Pollett may retire this summer; however, we've learned that quitting is not in this evangelist's vocabulary. Slowing down may be, but not quitting!

—BY RON QUICK



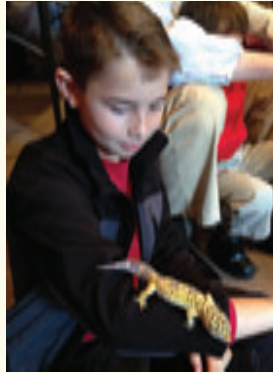
## Evangelism Through Children's Church

The Adventist church in Monroe, N.C., has been making an effort to both grow their church and reach out to the community. With that goal in mind, their Children's Ministries and Community Services Departments have partnered to bring fun, educational, and inspirational programs that the children in their church and community can enjoy.

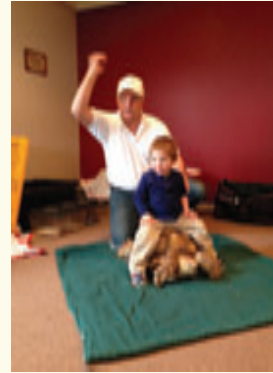
For children's church in February, the children were treated to a small critter petting zoo. The children took turns holding

a variety of animals, from chinchillas and snakes to lizards and guinea pigs. They even got to meet (and ride) the zoo mascot: Mr. 30lb Tortoise.

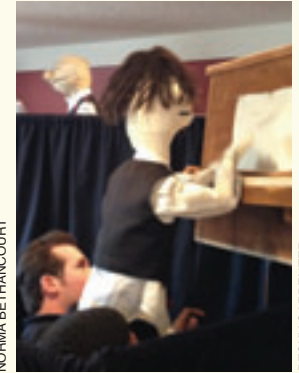
In March, children's church featured Mt. Pisgah Academy's Creative Ministry team, who thrilled the children with their pup-



NORMA BETHANCOURT



NORMA BETHANCOURT



BECKY CARPENTER

pets, stories, and illusions, bringing Jesus and the plan of salvation to their level. The team accompanied the community service group to a local nursing home, where their performance brought smiles and applause from the residents. It was a big hit!

A specific outreach has been to the children from the Union County Battered Women's Shelter. Several of these children have attended, and it is a delight to see their faces light up

with laughter or interest in what they are learning.

Guests have enjoyed the events so much, they have expressed interest in the children's Sabbath School program, and have asked to be invited to future events.

God is good, and our Church is blessed when we can serve Him by serving others.

—BY NORMA BETHANCOURT



BECKY CARPENTER

## Elders Use Retreat to Unite, Live Generously

For a little over a year, the Carolina Conference has been promoting a new stewardship initiative called

Generous Living. At the 2014 Elders' Retreat held March 28-29, with speaker Philip Saaman, D.Min., at Nosoca

Pines Ranch in Liberty, S.C., the elders from the Carolina churches took that theme seriously and made a genuine gesture of generosity that will be felt nearly 1,000 miles away.

During a recent Share-Him campaign in Cuba, Carolina Conference President Leslie Louis became aware of a great need. A group of Cuban Adventists needed \$800 for a church to worship in, and a local pastor needed money for a

bicycle (because he couldn't afford gas for his motorcycle on his \$25 monthly salary). So Louis added it to his Presidential Prayer Partners list.

When he mentioned it to the group of elders, they requested an offering be taken right then and there. The amount was raised and exceeded — enough to purchase a roof and pews for the new church! These are true leaders by example.

—BY BECKY CARPENTER



RON QUICK

## Training Participants Challenged: Ocala Church Promotes Healthy Lifestyle

On a Sunday morning at Jervey Grant Park, 40 Ocala, Fla., Church members of various ages gathered to launch the Let's Move Health Walk. Each participant wore a shirt that emphasized his or her commitment to a healthy lifestyle.

The following week's speaker for church service was Grace Daley, a former 15-year Women's

National Basketball Association (WNBA) player. Daley shared how God orchestrated her journey to bring about a greater understanding of the Sabbath. The journey also led her into BeSmart, a ministry which promotes health and worship in a positive light. Many people, including nonAdventists, now join the BeSmart team in weekly Sunday morning

exercises at Ocala Church.

Church temperance leader Lori Doperalski, and her assistant, Cheryl Rilea, followed up with cooking demonstrations.

At the latest program, "Better Breakfasts," 67 attended, including 12



During a cooking demonstration, Lori Doperalski displays freshly made raw granola with help from volunteer Louise Ostgard (left).

community members. Recipe demonstrations for banana splits, "unsausages," and more whetted appetites for the samples that followed.

Doperalski stated, "We are beginning to have community

participation at no cost to them. We pray God will use the health ministry to familiarize people with their physical and spiritual well-being."

—BY HERB PRITCHARD



Forty Ocala Church members participated in the Let's Move Health Walk.

## Communities Reached on Global Youth Day

Part of Global Youth Day (GYD), a General Conference initiative, was designated for young people to reach out to communities worldwide. Tampa First, Brandon Spanish, and Riverview, Fla., churches, converged on the Tampa Bay area for a day of service to distribute lunches, literature, and clothes as they visited with the homeless.

Of particular joy for one man was a book tucked into the sack with his lunch. "People help us with food, and we're grateful," he said, "but we eat and have nothing again. This book gives us something to hold on to."



A 93-year-old man from Bolivia welcomed literature and a Bible study card from Andrea Bennett of the Tampa First Pathfinder Club.

Over at MacFarlane Park, 14-year-old Victor came to meet a friend and found many other young people talking about Jesus. He spent the afternoon with the Global Youth Day activities, including the prayer walk.

Young people talked with individuals as they gave out literature and clothes packed in clear bags and labeled according to gender and size. The recipients' gratefulness was evident in one homeless person's response: "That's so sweet! We need clothes so bad!" Florida Conference office employees

cleaned out their closets and donated almost 100 articles of clothing for the young people to give to the homeless.

Eleven other GYD events throughout Florida Conference included blood drives, concerts, visiting shut-ins and missing members, free lunches and dinners, beach cleanup, street ministry, homeless youth ministry, a donation center for needy mothers, literature distribution, Vacation Bible School, and drive-through prayer.

—BY YOLANDA ACEVEDO

## “Go Ye Therefore” into Prison



NANCY BARTOLET

Mirlene André distributed certificates to participants who successfully completed prison ministries training.

Ambassador Church in Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., hosted Prison Ministries Day for 50 attendees representing 15 congregations. Fort Myers Shores Pastor Robert Ferguson, presented the theme, “The Joy of Ministry.” Ferguson also serves as Florida Conference’s south region prison ministries coordinator.

After a fellowship meal, an afternoon training program began for prison

ministries certification. Twenty-five individuals who had completed an earlier certification training program were awarded their certificates.

New prison ministries team members will join their counterparts in service opportunities by giving Bible studies, being part of the pen pal ministry, and getting involved in the Love A Mother’s Baby (L.A.M.B.) program.

Prison ministries is a rewarding program, but church members won’t have that experience if they don’t step out. So, “Go Ye Therefore” into prison.

—BY NANCY BARTOLET

## Journey Stories Highlight Baptism

It was a high Sabbath at Fort Myers Shores, Fla., Church when Robert Ferguson, pastor, baptized seven candidates who had recently finished Bible studies.

Three candidates for rebaptism each had different stories. One woman, who was already a member and baptized with her new husband, wanted to start their journey together with the Lord. Another felt the need

to be rebaptized, so she asked her friend to join her. They met 24 years ago when they heard the Adventist message for the first time. Since then, they have seen each other through many of life’s misfortunes.

After the baptism, Ferguson shared his sermon, “The Joys of Life,” followed by a blessing of physical food and fellowship.

—BY NANCY BARTOLET



LANI NACUA

Robert Ferguson, pastor, baptized seven candidates at Fort Myers Shores Church: Nigel Loney (left), Roger Johnson, Pedro Nunez, Jean Paul, Nancy Bartolet, Sarah Noack, and Claudette Loney.

## Original Play Recreates God’s Warning

Members of Fort Myers Shores Church performed *The Midnight Cry* in March before an audience of nearly 100. The play’s theme was based on the warning God has continued to give through the years, “Don’t let it be too late.”

Written and directed by Olive Ferguson, the pastor’s wife, the play featured



LANI NACUA

Cast and crew acknowledge the audience’s appreciation at the conclusion of *The Midnight Cry* production.

Jacques Sinjuste as the main character, Lot. There were 19 other cast members, and church young people pro-

vided musical numbers.

During the closing song, “Go Light Your World,” the entire cast and

audience joined the song leader, broke open glow sticks, and brightened the room with colored candles.

In the last scene, Lot walked away saying, “It was too late, too late.” The cast members’ greatest wish is that it will not

be too late for those who saw or heard about their performance.

—BY NANCY BARTOLET

## Cancer Survivors “Celebrate Life” at Cohutta Springs

Peggy Hallman, Cohutta Springs Conference Center mission outreach coordinator, husband is battling cancer.

She saw the benefits of Memorial Hospital’s cancer survivor weekends that were held at Cohutta Springs over the years, and wondered if the same thing could be accomplished by teaming up with the local Adventist institutions, so her husband and people like him could have a therapeutic retreat.

“We [Cohutta Springs] have partnered with Gordon Hospital, Emory Adventist Hospital, Winship Cancer Foundation has been included through Emory, and the Health Ministries department of Georgia-Cumberland Con-

ference,” says Hallman. “We have all partnered together to sponsor this weekend, so each family only had to pay \$50 to attend. We have 66 people registered, that includes children and teens, as well as 27 volunteers.”

“It’s exciting because it gives our families a retreat, an opportunity for spiritual renewal, physical, emotional, mental, and social” remarked Lanell Jacobs, director of Oncology Services at Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Ga. “Folks make a lot of connections with one another. They’re able to share their story, get education, and enjoy nature. So this is our treat to them.”

The activities include seminars, small group sharing time to discuss



*Faris Jordan, Celebration of Life speaker, is a licensed psychologist, motivational speaker, and cancer survivor. He created a lot of laughter and believes in a positive attitude.*

cancer and how it has affected them, crafts, pontoon boat rides, hay rides, and a campfire with smores. Compassionate Paws, a volunteer group out of Rome, Ga., paid their own way to bring five therapy dogs around to the groups for pet therapy.

Faris Jordan, speaker for the March 7-9 weekend, is a licensed psychologist, motivational speaker, and a cancer survivor. He focused on the themes of laughter and a positive attitude. “Life doesn’t come with a menu, I’ll have a hangnail and a small pimple, and that’s all I’ll have” quipped Jordan. “Laughter is biblical, in James it’s a virtual stress manual. In James 1:2, we’re told when we fall into diverse tempta-

tions count it joy, and John 16:33, my favorite verse in the world, you’ll have trials and tribulation, but be of good cheer.”

Hallman felt the Celebration of Life Weekend was a success, and would like to see it continue and grow. “Sometimes cancer patients feel like they’re going through it alone. My personal investment in this is my husband’s cancer and thinking about what he’s going through and what would be beneficial. Even for those of us who don’t have cancer, we don’t know when our last day is, and we need to take each day and celebrate life as it comes.”

—BY BRIAN YOUNG



*The first Celebration of Life Weekend for cancer survivors was held March 7-9, 2014, at Cohutta Springs Conference Center. This event was sponsored by several organizations to provide families with a chance to retreat.*

## Peachtree Church Reaches Out with Health Fair

Peachtree City Church in Sharpsburg, Ga., opened the doors of their Family Life Center on Sunday, March 16, to host a “Free Community Outreach Health Fair.”

George Pangman, pastor, challenged the church board in mid-2013 to prayerfully seek to find ways that they, as a church, could reach out in a meaningful way to the community that surrounds them in the Coweta/Fayette counties.

It was decided that a health fair could be a successful vehicle to bring people in the area together to build bridges and relationships that could lead to other outreach projects in the near future.

Twenty-eight booths were manned by exhibitors spotlighting their service, product, or organization. They include:

- Organic Farming
- Chemical Free Cleaning Products

- Wellness/Nutrition
- Gluten Free/Allergy Free Information
- Crohn’s and Colitis Advocate
- Essential Oils
- Juice Plus
- Autism
- Special Needs Therapy
- Breastfeeding
- Family Planning
- Childbirth and Newborns
- Alzheimer’s
- Spiritual Support
- Hospice Care
- Marriage/Family Counseling
- Running Club
- Exercise and Fitness
- Occupational Therapy
- Chiropractic
- Massage Therapy
- Body Image/Eating Disorders
- Raw Foods/Health

Church members who have medical experience checked blood pressures, glucose/diabetes readings, and body mass index. Health Age Appraisals were given by E.W. Dempsey



NANCY CALE

*Twenty-eight booths were set up for the free Community Outreach Health Fair in Peachtree City, Ga. The booths represented a wide range of exhibits including organic farming, running club, and spiritual support.*

from the Conference.

The American Red Cross held a blood drive, and collected 40 pints of blood.

There was even a healthy salad bar, and a large array of door prizes were awarded.

—BY NANCY CALE

## Lipscombs Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Hew and Carolyn Lipscomb celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, February 16, 2014, in Cordele, Ga.

The couple met in Eugene, Ore., in 1963, and were married one year later in Eugene Church. They moved to Colorado Springs, Colo., where Hew was stationed in the Army. After his dis-



BRENDA WALKER

charge 16 months later, they moved back to Eugene. Carolyn was the Pathfinder

coordinator, and they were both volunteers with the Pleasant Hill Fire Department. In 1990 they moved to Bethel, Alaska, to be the lay pastor, and spent four years there. They were called to south Georgia in 1995 to be the directors of Adventist Community Services, and they have lived there ever since.

They are members of the Oglethorpe Church, but spend many Sabbaths visiting the area churches.

They have two daughters, Brenda Walker of Lake Park, Ga., and Angee Armstrong of Keene Tex. They also have two granddaughters and one grandson in Keene.

—BY BRENDA WALKER

## God Moves in a Mobile Home Park



*Mobile Home children learn the song "Peace Like a River."*

Her eyes were bright with unshed tears as she said, "You are an answer to prayer," said the manager of a mobile home park. Todd Casey, pastor, had just told the manager that Blue Angel Parkway Church in Pensacola, Fla., wanted to help some residents of her community. He asked her to identify five or six of the neediest families, and the church would deliver food baskets and gifts to them for Christmas.

"For two years I have been trying to get a church to come and provide some Bible studies to the kids here at the clubhouse, but I received no response from one of the churches I contacted, and another

only wanted to come and take the children to their church," she added.

That was November of 2013 after Thanksgiving. That weekend, four members of the church went to ARME Bible Camp hosted by Ivor Myers, pastor. The topic was prayer. There were many prayer sessions petitioning God to move on the hearts of the Blue Angel members and show them what ministry He wanted them to do.

God was already answering their prayer before they prayed it. That Sabbath, Casey asked me to share the results of the meeting with the congregation. I recounted the manager's desire for religious

instruction, the fact that the community was home to 27 elementary-age children, and that Blue Angel was the answer to a mobile home park manager's prayer. These members have since organized prayer cells consisting of two or three individuals praying for specific needs. God has been answering those prayers, and they rejoice as they share the answers with the congregation.

That Saturday night, a member, Terri Church, called and volunteered to lead out in a Branch Sabbath School. During the following week, another member, Nina Correa, who is a certified instructor in the public school system,

volunteered to provide tutoring one afternoon each week. Correa called a friend at University Parkway Church to tell her about the missionary activity. Her friend, Kathy Brennan, was also praying for the Lord to show her what she could do for Him. She signed up to help with the Branch Sabbath School.

On Sunday, January 26, 2014, 33 children attended a promotional fun day. The next day tutoring was launched, and five children came for help with their lessons. Now, six members are tutoring 15 children each week.

—BY NEVILLE PARKINSON

## Montgomery Adventist School Holds Winterfest Program



James and Tania Mangum are in the colors of the national soccer team of Brazil; their son Lucas is pictured with them.



Imelda (left) and April Lin-ao wear traditional Filipino costumes, and Challenge Grea Lin-ao wears a Chinese dress.



Biu, Priya, and David Sigamani exhibit their national costumes from India.

Many of us would like to travel around the world and see many exciting sites. However, since most people cannot do that, about 80 members of the Montgomery, Ala., Church did the next best thing and attended the Winterfest program organized by Imelda Lin-ao, Montgomery Adventist School principal, on the night of February 23, 2014, in the school gym.



Anita Kane is from The Netherlands

Some church members brought foods native to their countries of origin. For a donation to the school, those who attended the event could sample foods from India, the Philippines, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Italy, and, of course, the United States. Several who brought food came in their native attire, which added to

the international flavor of the night.

“The Montgomery Church is truly a multicultural church,” commented Samuel Riemersma, pastor, “as we have members from

every continent across the globe except for Australia, including myself, as I am Dutch by birth.” Illustrating the multicultural origins of Montgomery Church members, the children sang the well-known song “It’s a Small World” from Disney’s Magic Kingdom.

In addition to the food,

there were several games for the children to play. For a small donation, attendees could purchase tickets to play the games.

“The Winterfest was a great opportunity for the church and the school to work together to have a program like this,” Lin-ao commented. “We not only wanted this event to be a blessing to the school, but also to be an opportunity to fellowship and build a deeper and stronger relationship with one another in Christ as a Christian family.”

The program truly illustrated what the apostle Paul wrote to the Romans many years ago, “For just as we have many members in one body and all do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually

members one of another,” Romans 12: 4-5.

“The Montgomery Adventist School hopes that the Winterfest program will become a part of the school program each year, as we anticipate more growth and development in the coming years,” stated Lin-ao.

—BY BOB KANE



Gladys Athinaa is from Indonesia and Jeff McFarland, her friend, wears an Indonesian Batik sbirt.

## Conference Hires New Highland Academy Principal

On March 13, 2014, Chadd Watkins accepted the invitation from Highland Academy's Board to become the new principal. For the past two months, he has served as the interim principal.

Watkins graduated from Bass Memorial Academy in 1997. He went on to study at Southern Adventist University and received a B.S. in physical education, health, and recreation in 2002. After



*Chadd (left), Camdon, Nikie, and Carson Watkins*

graduating from Southern, he spent six years working as a teacher and coach at Madison Academy. In 2008,

he accepted the position of boys' dean, vice principal, and coach at Highland, where he has served for the past six years.

Watkins and his wife, Nikie Mathis Watkins, began dating while at Southern and married in 2005. His wife is a graduate of Highland, and worked at Highland for eight years. She is now a stay-at-home mom with their two boys, Carson, 6, and Camdon, 1.

Carson attends Highland Elementary School.

Watkins and his family are excited about what God has called them to do, and pray for His leading in this very important position. They look forward to serving the students, parents, staff, and constituents of Highland Academy. They want God to use them in a mighty way to bring about great accomplishments for His Kingdom.

—BY AMY CIRIGLIANO AND  
KEN HALLAM

## Hendersonville Members Celebrate Religious Liberty

Hendersonville Church members hosted a convocation celebrating the value of religious freedom for people of faith in all cultures on February 15, 2014.

John Graz, Ph.D., secretary-general of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), and the current Secretary of the Conference of Secretaries of the Christian World Communions, an organization representing more than two billion Christians worldwide.

Also participating in the event were Amireh Al-Haddad, Southern Union director of public affairs and religious liberty; Kevin James, Southern Union associate director



*Hillcrest Church Pathfinder Club enters as Sabbath School begins.*

of public affairs and religious liberty; Martin Lister, South Central Conference director of public affairs and religious liberty; Melissa Reid, North American Division religious liberty association executive director; Steve Halley, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference; and Steve Rose, secretariat of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Meetings covering a range of religious liberty top-



*The Sounds of Brass provided special music and enhanced the congregational singing.*

ics occurred throughout the day. At the 11 a.m. session, former Tennessee legislator for the 45th district of Hendersonville, Debra Maggart, was honored for her effort in protecting religious freedom for everyone in Tennessee

by sponsoring the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which was signed into law in 2009 by former Governor Phil Bredesen.

Informational exhibits were sponsored by several participating organizations including the International

Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), the North American Religious Liberty Association (NARLA), and *Liberty* magazine, the pre-eminent publication dedicated to advancing the cause of religious freedom worldwide was the keynote speaker.

—COMPILED BY  
DENISE POPE



*John Graz, Ph.D., keynote speaker*



## Kentucky-Tennessee Holds Annual Conference-wide Music Festival

The Annual Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Music Festival was held March 13-15, 2014, on the campus of Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn. The purpose of the festival is to provide students an opportunity to expand their musical skills in cooperation with experienced musicians to inspire spiritual growth and enhance cultural development. The festival featured grades 5-8 choir, grades 9-12 choir, the concert band, and the string ensemble. Each performing group rehearsed Thursday afternoon and most of Friday for two concerts: a sacred concert Friday evening, and a secular concert Saturday evening. Each evening, the program concluded with all four groups participating together with a com-

bined piece — “All the Glory Belongs to Jesus.”

This year’s clinicians were Benjamin Gish, Walla Walla Academy, Walla Walla, Wash., directing the string ensemble; Byron Graves, Andrews Academy, Berrien Springs, Mich., directing the band; Robert Malin, South Lancaster, Mass., directing grades 5-8 choir; and Waldemar Wensell, Madison Academy, Madison, Tenn., directing grades 9-12 choir.

Thirteen Conference schools sent students to the festival along with homeschool students, public school students, and participants from an academy in Illinois for a total of 327 students.

For many of the students, this was their first opportunity to sing in a large choir or play in an

instrumental ensemble. Students travelling from outside the metropolitan Nashville area were housed in the Highland Academy dormitories. Rehearsals were held all over the academy campus, including Highland Elementary School. Highland

Church also opened its doors for sacred repertoire rehearsals. On Sabbath, Highland Church hosted the Sabbath services, an afternoon chamber concert, and Vespers provided by the clinicians.

—BY ELAINE WILL



*Chadd Watkins, principal of Highland Academy, welcomes everyone to the Annual Music Festival.*



*Choir practice*



*Strings warm up while the choir watches.*

## Aspiring Nine-Year-Old Chef

Nine-year-old chef, speaker, and upcoming television show host, Shiona “Shi” Curry, is transforming how children value what they eat and think. Authoring her first cookbook, Shi educates children on how fun and awesome it is to be healthy in a fast food society.

Since the age of four, Shi has been fascinated by cooking shows and has kept busy reading every cookbook at her disposal. As her parents only supplied a healthy diet of natural foods, it is no mistake that Shi has a natural approach to cooking. Her passion for natural cooking served as a signal to her parents that cooking was more than a passing fancy, or merely a hobby. This passion was fueled when she saw pictures and videos of sick children. From that point, she decided that she wanted to devote her life to sharing the simple, fun message of what she calls S.H.A.R.E. W.I.T.H., which stands for Sunshine, Healthy food, Air, Rest, Exercise, Water, I love myself, Trust, and Help (others).

Shi creatively presents the S.H.A.R.E. W.I.T.H. message in a way that engages her audience of very limited attention spans. It is amazing to watch how effective Shi is with the



*Shiona Curry*

elementary and middle school children at schools where she has presented many of her workshops. As Shi presents spiritual, emotional, and physical health “for kids by a kid,” children easily grasp the concepts and willingly apply them to their lives. For these students, Shi has become a household name.

Recently, she was able to see the effects of her mission realized when during one of her workshops, a many times “left out” child with known food allergies was ecstatic to find that she too could participate in a tasting because all of the ingredients were natural. Shi is determined that all children will be able to take part in her

message. In fact, one of her affirmations is “My cooking show is on TV and every child in the world is watching, even the poor children.”

Recognizing the detrimental effects of negative thinking on the body, Shi incorporates an “I love myself” piece in all of her workshops, and challenges children to think healthy thoughts about themselves and others. The coolest thing about this is that it works! The children who have been consistent with the “I love myself” exercises have

also been more consistent with eating healthy, despite ethnic or economic background.

In October 2013, Shi was a speaker at the Coca Cola headquarters

in Atlanta, Ga., where she presented for corporate professionals on the topic: “Think Inside the Lunchbox.” The topic focused on the struggles a child has to be healthy in a fast food society, along with common mistakes that adults make in the contribution of unhealthy choices for children.

Shi realizes that God has called her to creatively share His message of spiritual, emotional, and physical health to the world. She attends Maranatha Church in Atlanta, Ga., where Sherwin Jack is the pastor. Shi was baptized in 2013 after independently approaching the pastor about baptism, and being persistent.

—BY CELESTE CURRY



*Shiona Curry conducts a cooking class at Scholars Academy in Riverdale, Ga.*

## Civil Rights Trailblazer Speaks at Mt. Olive Church

As part of a series of programs focused on celebrating Black History month, Mt. Olive Church in East Point, Ga., welcomed Willie Bolden, pastor and Civil Rights trailblazer, to share his experience working with Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement. King recruited Bolden from a pool hall when he was 18 years old, and invited him to join the movement. After one meeting with the Civil Rights leader in Atlanta that changed the course of his life, Bolden became an integral part of the movement. While active with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Poor People's Campaign, Bolden worked with voter registration drives, and led efforts to integrate hotels and restaurants in St. Augustine, Fla.

During the program, Bolden recounted his experience during the events of Bloody Sunday, the Civil



Betty Weston, Mt. Olive Church AYS leader, stands with Willie Bolden, Civil Rights activist.

Rights March from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., during which police beat protestors as they walked across the Edmond Pettus Bridge. He shared little known facts about King, and answered questions about his experience working alongside other Civil Rights leaders such as Hosea Williams, Andrew Young, and U.S. Representative John Lewis.

Since working with King, Bolden has received medals and accolades for his tireless efforts working with the Civil Rights Movement, and in 2012 was inducted into the Trumpet Awards Foundation's International Civil Rights Walk of Fame. The Mt. Olive members were honored to have him as a guest speaker for their Adventist Youth Society program, and presented him with a plaque in appreciation of his work with the Civil Rights Movement.

—BY JONAE JACKSON

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## Miracles are Raining at Emmanuel Junior Academy



MARVIN L. ALLISON SR.

*Emmanuel Junior Academy's new student body*

Not light showers, but heavy showers of blessings have been poured out on Emmanuel Junior Academy in Mobile, Ala. Threatened with the possibility of closure after the present school year ended, God intervened with an emphatic “NO!”

When school was dismissed for Christmas on December 20, 2013, there were 19 students with a faculty of two. At the re-opening of school on January 6, 2014, there were 70-plus students with a faculty/staff of five. Needless to say, the school is now bursting at the seams with students and personnel.

After receiving information about scholarships for private schools on December 22, 2013, Emmanuel Church in Mobile, Ala., and two faculty members

became busy beavers recruiting students for the full scholarships that were being offered by the Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund. Response was tremendous with applications pouring in daily for the new program. One parent has expressed what seems to be a general consensus, that she is grateful for the opportunity to send her children to private school which would not have been possible without the scholarship fund.

And, like most schools, the students are from varied backgrounds and experiences. One new student, Rubi Scott, has expressed that she was praying

to God for a place to go to school other than public school, and is blessed that her prayer was answered to attend Emmanuel Junior Academy.

Plans are already on the drawing board for a



MARVIN L. ALLISON SR.

*Rubi Scott is happy that God answered her prayer.*

new school building by the opening of the 2014-2015 school year in August. The land stands ready for the new building and Emmanuel ancillary personnel is already pursuing the necessary building permits through the local Planning Commission for the chosen site.

The summary indication of all of this is that God still rules from on high and pours out miracles on His people. To God be the glory for Emmanuel Junior Academy. May this school become the bright light that is needed in the city of Mobile, that it might aid in pointing the local citizens to a loving heavenly Father Who just wants to grant them a life that will never end.

—BY JOYCE  
SAMPSON ROBINSON

## Conference Holds ACS Grant Writing Seminar

South Central Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) Department sponsored a Grant Writing 101 seminar on March 6-9, 2014, at the Cooper Science Complex on Oakwood University campus in Huntsville, Ala. The seminar presenter was Derek L. Lane, owner of the Lane Consulting Group.

This well-attended seminar was designed to help ACS volunteers, pastors, and others with interest in community-based ministry to learn how to identify the essential elements of a grant proposal, how to organize key information and documents before the writing process begins, to explore the concept of resources versus

relationships in Christian community development work, and to prepare and submit a mock proposal in real-time. The class attendees were both Seventh-day Adventists and non-Adventists from the faith-based community.

Not only was the seminar educational, but spiritual as well. The seminar began on Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. with prayer and devotion by Alfred Hill, associate pastor of First Church in Huntsville, Ala. Other morning devotional thoughts were given by Derek Lane, elder; C. E. Cunningham, pastor from the Southwest Regional Conference; and T. Marshall Kelly, pastor, who blessed all with his mes-

sage in song.

Others guests included Kenny Anderson and David Person. Anderson is director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs for the City of Huntsville. He shared with the class the importance of developing partnerships with local city agencies, and the development of community outreach. Person is a media personality and consultant, and is the director of communications at Phoenix, a nonprofit company in Huntsville that provides jobs, job placement, and other services to people with disabilities. He also hosts "WEUP Talk," a daily talk show that airs on WEUP-AM.

The teaching pro-

cess was very interactive. Games were played such as "The Non-profit Family Feud" to test how much the participants had learned. The class was separated into four groups. Each team competed against the other to win the game.

At the conclusion, all participants received a certificate. Many of the participants stated that the seminar met their expectations. Some were glad they had attended and felt they were prepared to write a proposal. They also learned that relationship with the community is the key to writing a successful grant.

—BY LILLIE M. BUCKINGHAM  
AND BARBARA R. BARNES



### Legacy to Family *and the* Lord's Work

Elder Isaac J. Johnson served faithfully in the South Central Conference as director of stewardship, trust services, ASI, communication, and other areas. His daughter, Sharon, referring to his values, says, "He was a true believer in total 360 degree stewardship. He taught that everything you have, including your talents, is a trust from God. It is the Christian's duty and privilege to give back to God that which He has so freely given." She also stated, "He practiced what he preached. He proved the Lord. In life, his talents and time and work were devoted to building God's Kingdom. In death, he made a bequest to the conference for the furtherance of the Gospel." His legacy lives on.

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## Ephesus Church Members Honor Centenarian

On November 16 2013, Mercedes Harris celebrated her 100th birthday with family, friends, and church members at Ephesus Church in Jacksonville, Fla., where she has been a lifelong member.

Born on November 12, 1913, in Jacksonville, Harris is the second child born to the late Joseph and Annie Mae Singleton, charter members of Ephesus, a 107-year-old Seventh-day Adventist institution with a church, school, and daycare.

Harris hails from a family whose heritage is rich in Christian service and dedication. This rich heritage, along with her personal conviction, led her to dedicate her life to the Lord's service at an early age.

Her brother, Harold Singleton, served as the first president of the South Atlantic Conference, one of the first Seventh-day Adventist conferences established to serve African-American congregations in the United States. Her sister, Juanita, is married to Ralph Peay, former president of the South Atlantic Conference.

In his tribute, Mark Brown, pastor of Ephesus Church, congratulated Harris on achieving this milestone, and thanked her for her long and faithful service to the work of God.

Harris holds the distinction of being Ephesus' longest serving pianist, a position she held for more than 60 years. Along with serving as church pianist, she has served as choir director, school treasurer, board mem-

ber, Sabbath School teacher, Adventist Youth Society leader, and treasury board member. Though no longer able to participate in church activities, the family tradition of service continues. Her son Dwayne Harris serves as an elder at Ephesus.

Her family remembers the work ethic and family values she not only taught but demonstrated through the years. Many remember being taught Christian values while attending the daycare facility she ran from her home. "She would always tell us, 'Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth Thee,'" recalls her granddaughter LaShawn Smith. Other family members also shared fond

memories and recalled that, "She attended Camp Meeting faithfully, and stayed in the same cabin on 66 Parkway for many years."

Harris is a gifted seamstress, and through the years would be seen donning her own creations and designs.

"She loved doing crossword puzzles, reading, and other wholesome activities; she believed an idle mind was dangerous," added Smith

When presented with a cake and flowers to commemorate the occasion, overwhelmed with joy, she humbly and graciously said a simple, "Thank you."

—BY ORVILLE ARSCOTT

## Mt. Olive Member Wins South Apopka Ministerial Alliance Oratorical Competition

On Sunday, February 9, 2014, Mt. Olive Worship and Educational Center in Apopka, Fla., had the privilege of hosting the South Apopka Ministerial Alliance Oratorical Scholarship Competition. The competition has been sponsored by the South Apopka Ministerial Alliance annually since 2011. Members of the community and fellow churches come together to support the young people from their congregations. Mt. Olive is the only Seventh-day Adventist church that participates in the event. Courtney Lalanne, a member of Mt. Olive Church, was this year's first place winner.

Incredibly, every year since its inception, the young people of Mt. Olive have taken

first place. Past winners are Lorna Jack, 2011; Angelica Laloo, 2012; and Brianna Barrett, 2013.

Mt. Olive member Renee Cooper has coached every winner of the competition. The proud father of this year's winner exclaims that Cooper even coached his daughter



*Courtney Lalanne, a member of Mt. Olive Church, won first place in the annual South Apopka Ministerial Alliance Oratorical Competition.*

from her hospital bed. Cooper was hospitalized briefly during the preparation for the event. Lalanne's family took her to Cooper's bedside at the hospital to help her prepare. Lalanne also practiced her speech with Cooper over the phone.

"We are extremely proud of all the wonderful work of our young people. We hope to win many more competitions in the future," said Carl Ware, pastor of Mt. Olive.

—BY JENNIFER TOMLINSON

## Maviean Masson Wins Southeastern's Annual Spelling Bee

Maviean Masson, 12, a 7th grade student at Ephesus Jr. Academy in West Palm Beach, Fla., emerged as the winner of the 16th Annual Southeastern Conference Spelling Bee held on February 22, 2014, on the campus of Miami Union Academy, Miami, Fla.

After 24 rounds, Masson won the competition with the correct spelling of the word spritz.

Second and third place winners were Jean Jacques, a student at Miami Union Academy, and Rigaud Chostel, a student at Mt. Calvary Jr. Academy, Tampa, Fla.

The competition featured contestants from 11 of the 15 schools that comprise the Southeastern Conference school system. To qualify for the spelling bee, each student had to win a qualifying spelling bee that was held at his or her school.

The other contestants were Jewel Murray, Mt. Olivet Junior Academy, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Kayla Charles, Broward Jr. Academy, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Amari North, Ephesus Junior Academy, Jacksonville, Fla.; Anthony Anson, Shiloh SDA School, Ocala, Fla.; Kaitlyn Taylor, Perrine SDA School,



*Maviean Masson spells the word spritz to win the 16th Annual Southeastern Conference Spelling Bee.*

Perrine, Fla.; Daijah Nichols, Mt. Sinai SDA School, Orlando, Fla.; Sidney Pinnock, New Hope SDA School, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; and Dane Witter, Bethel Elementary, Florida City, Fla.

"The spelling bee provides our students with the opportunity to showcase their spelling ability," said Carol Byrd, Conference superintendent of education. The students studied the word list provided by the Scripts National Spelling Bee to prepare for the spelling bee.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

## Tabernacle Sponsors Block Party, Reaches Out to Community

Since its beginning in 1977, Tabernacle Church, North Miami, Fla., has had a long history of serving in Miami's Little Haiti and Little River communities. On January 19, 2014, the day before Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the members honored the day by funding a block party to reinforce that Tabernacle is ready to serve the needs of the community.

The block party was spearheaded by the Personal Ministries Department, led by Selwyn Carrington. The purpose was apparent in the preparations



*Members of Tabernacle Church, North Miami, Fla., serve food to community individuals during a block party they sponsored.*

leading up to the event.

"Our goal is to take care of this community," Carrington said. "We do not just come here to go to church. We are part of this community, and must show

the people they can count on us."

The area was flooded with literature promoting the events and the services the church provides, including free food and clothing distribution on the third Sunday of each month.

When the day of the block party arrived, the parking lot

was transformed into a festival complete with a stage, music, and booths provided with a variety of food and activities. There was a bounce house and games for the children, tables

with information on ministries such as Pure Reality, and food for everyone.

In case a visitor was curious about the people who attend the church, members put their best foot forward and provided entertainment through songs and skits that showed Tabernacle is a warm and welcome place to attend.

"Tabernacle is a place for people to get well," said Olinto Groce, pastor. "And 2014 begins now. The goal of this church should be to help people get well through the love of Jesus."

With the block party, the year was off to a flying start.

—BY JOHN DEVINE

## Oakwood Student Named 2014 HBCU All-Star

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBCU) announced in early February its first class of HBCU All-Stars, recognizing 75 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement.

Antoine Southern, from Houston, Tex., is currently enrolled at Oakwood

University, one of the 62 HBCUs from which the 445 All-Star applicants were selected.

During the next year, the HBCU All-Stars will serve as ambassadors of the White House Initiative by providing outreach and communication with their fellow students about the value of education, and the Initiative as a networking resource. Through social media and their relation-

ships with community-based organizations, the All-Stars will share promising and proven practices that support opportunities for all young people to achieve their educational and career potential.

In addition, the 45 female and 30 male All-Stars will participate in regional events and web chats with Ivory Toldson, deputy director of the WHIHBCUs, and other Initiative staff

and professionals from a wide range of disciplines. They will also have opportunities to engage with other scholars to showcase individual and collective talent across the HBCU community.

At press time, it was announced that Antoine Southern was accepted into Harvard Law School.

## OU Strives to Stay Fit Through Fitness Classes

*U.S. News and World Report* recently named Alabama as the second most obese state in the nation. It has an obesity rate of 31.2 percent listing it as one of the top 10 most physically inactive states. Oakwood University Alumnus Tyrel Thomas isn't taking this information lightly. He and a few friends have taken seriously this health prognosis of the state and have decided to begin close to home to try to make changes.

Every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6-7 p.m., Tyrel Thomas and Eric Ramey lead out in circuit training classes right on Oakwood's campus to try to help students, faculty, and staff understand how they can help Alabama get out of its #2 ranking. "Our classes are centered around metabolic circuit training which includes cardio and calisthenics," said Thomas, who graduated from Oakwood

in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in pre-physical therapy.

Approximately 50 people participate in Thomas and Ramey's twice-a-week class. "We were happy that one of our own decided to come back and give of himself though this fitness class," said Raymond King, director of student activities at Oakwood.

Both Thomas and Ramey are Action Certified Trainers and are currently

taking online classes at Vanderbilt University dealing with nutrition. "In our fitness classes, we also make sure that the participants understand that it's not just about exercising, its also about making sure you are putting the right things in your body," said Ramey.

—BY GEORGE JOHNSON JR.

## Oakwood Participates in Global Youth Day

March 15, 2014, marked the second annual Global Youth Day (GYD) sponsored by the General Conference's Youth Department. GYD is dedicated to spending time as the "hands and the feet of Jesus" in serving others. This year, Oakwood University was given the opportunity to report on both its reoc-

curing community service activities, sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Life, and its GYD activities, during a one-hour broadcast that was one of 22 sites broadcasting LIVE on Hope Church Channel within a 24-hour period.

On that day, more than 300 students participated in clothing and food distribu-

tion in three of Huntsville's urban housing communities. "Since its inception, Oakwood has had a culture of helping students understand what it means to serve others," said George Johnson Jr., director of integrated marketing and public relations and executive producer/host of Oakwood's one-hour

broadcast. "We were happy to share in this event that allowed us to be a part of a global compassion initiative," said Johnson.

The General Conference Youth Department has planned the next GYD for March 21, 2015.

—BY GEORGE JOHNSON JR.



## Southern Students, Faculty Win Awards During SONscreen Film Festival Held on Campus

Southern Adventist University hosted the 2014 SONscreen Film Festival March 20-22, 2014. Begun by the North American Division in 2002, the event is a premier destination for Christian filmmakers to share their creative work, gain exposure, and network with other media and film professionals.

This year's SONscreen showcased more than 20 independent projects and provided 11 workshops. The festival culminated in an awards ceremony with individual prizes as high as \$2,000. Judges honored junior animation major Jason Dull for Best Animation on *Disconnected*, and senior film production major Matthew Disbro with



*Cast and crew for The Hideout pose with their Best in Fest Award during SONscreen 2014 at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn.*

four awards (Best in Fest Sonny Award, Best Dramatic Short, Best Cinematography, and Audience Choice Award) for *The Hideout*. Jesse Rademacher and Daniel Cooper, both

of whom teach in Southern's School of Visual Art and Design, took home a Best Sound Award for their work in *Sideshow*.

Because of its location on Southern's campus this

year – the festival has traditionally been held in California – junior film production major Joseph Cartwright was able to attend SONscreen for the first time. He took to heart the message of keynote speaker Dave Christiano who said that writing scripts with sex, violence, sin, and greed is simple. But creating a positive message of lasting and eternal value requires greater skill, dedication, and inspiration.

“Southern teaches us how to do that!”

Cartwright said. “We learn how to make professional looking films, and use those talents to bring people closer to God.”

—BY ASHLEY RICH

## Summer Evangelism Training Targets Lay Leaders

In its third year of operation, the Soul Winning and Leadership Training (SALT) program at Southern Adventist University continues to grow. One option for those unable to commit to an entire semester of study is Summer SALT, the condensed version of its fall program. Summer SALT registration is now open with classes running June 22-29.

According to Michelle Ducomes, SALT program coordinator, Christians

enroll in these classes with the primary goal of effectively channeling their enthusiasm for Kingdom work. And it works! Students often leave SALT and immediately go home to begin an evangelistic series or Bible studies in their own church. The possibilities are endless as students take away a wealth of knowledge. Summer SALT covers a variety of topics, including friendship evangelism, health evangelism, public evangelism, creating

and giving Bible studies, awakening spiritual interest, answering objections, and how to start contagious evangelism in a church. Classes are held all day Monday through Thursday, and a half day on Friday. Instructors include professors from the School of Religion and both the evangelism director and the speaker for *It Is Written*, Southern's partner organization for SALT.

“Everybody wants to do something, but they

don't know exactly how to get started,” said former attendee Jerome Williams. “After this week they will know how to get started!”

Summer SALT averages between 30 and 40 students, ranging in ages from 14 to 80. For more information regarding registration rates or housing and food options, visit [www.southern.edu/salt](http://www.southern.edu/salt).

—STAFF REPORT

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**GORGEOUS ACREAGE IN TENNESSEE** with end of road privacy, water, hardwoods, views and much more. For pictures and details go to: <http://kismetkennel.com/countryland.html> or call 301-992-7472. [5]

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**MOUNTAIN PROPERTIES FOR SALE** – Beautiful mountain views, streams, waterfalls and lakes, abundant wildlife and recreational opportunities. Thriving SDA church. Country living at its best. Ask for Sherri Rouse with The Evelyn Owens Team, Keller Williams Realty, Franklin, NC. 828-371-8655, [www.SellingFranklin.com](http://www.SellingFranklin.com). [5-9]

**FLORIDA DOUBLE-WIDE ON 2.28 TREED ACRES** – 4 bed, 2 bath, living, dining, den and fireplace. Back porch and ramp. R.V. hookup back yard. Out building, 2 dusk-to-dawn lights. 10 minutes to Suwanee River boat ramp. Furnished rider mower, SDA church only 30 minutes, SDA Camp Kulaqua only 45 minutes. 145,000. Call 352-542-2536. [5, 6]

**207 ACRES IN WAYNESBORO, TN** with waterfalls, caves, 3 creeks, big springs, southern exposure, gated, hardwood forest. \$437,777. Owner-agent: 931-332-4636. [5]

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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**DEAN NEEDED** for high functioning developmentally disabled men. For application, go to [cavespringhome.org](http://cavespringhome.org). [5]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a faculty member for **Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Education**. Qualified person should have a doctorate Ed/D or PHD in Teacher Education. Must have at least three years teaching K-12 within the United States,

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# Advertisements

public or private. For more information and to apply, visit [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_faculty.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi). [5]

**BETTER LIFE TELEVISION:** Seeking **broadcast engineer** for 20 stations in Grants Pass, Oregon. RF, FCC regulation knowledge required. Resume: [ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com](mailto:ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com). [5, 6]

**MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER** in Los Angeles to cultivate important donors. SDA in good standing. Email Better Life Broadcasting: [ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com](mailto:ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com). [5, 6]

**OUACHITA HILLS COLLEGE** is accepting applications for the following positions: **chemistry instructor, English instructor, Academic Dean, construction manager, and men's dean.** Our website is [www.ohc.org](http://www.ohc.org). Contact Magda Rodriguez at [info@ohc.org](mailto:info@ohc.org) or call 870-342-6210 ext. 223 for more information. [5, 6]

**LIVE-IN CAREGIVER** opportunity in Trenton, GA. 4 miles from Wildwood Lifestyle Center & Hospital. 30 miles from SAU. CNA skills required. Married couple or 2 ladies ideal. Private room, share bath & living area. 3ABN, Wi-Fi. Call 706-657-7788 for details. [5]

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**PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER CLUB NAME CREST:** Order your Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at [www.pathfinderclubnames.com](http://www.pathfinderclubnames.com). For more information, call 269-208-5853 or email us at [pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com](mailto:pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com). [5]

**LIVE STREAM** your church services with [www.3AngelsLive.com](http://www.3AngelsLive.com). Visit our page today for pricing and information. [5-9]

## MISCELLANEOUS

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**RELOCATING FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER?** The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines can help! With special pricing for all Adventist families, and recommended by the General Conference for over 14 years, quality is inherent. Call the Clergy Move Center direct for a no cost or obligation estimate at 800-248-8313 or contact us at [www.stevensworldwide.com/sda](http://www.stevensworldwide.com/sda). [5-12]

**DIABETES REVERSAL AND WEIGHT MANAGEMENT** – Butler Creek Health Education Center, Iron City, TN. June 29-July 11, 2014. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease. Reversal of most Type 2 diabetes and permanent weight loss. Cost: \$975 (physician fees not included). For more information call 931-724-2443. [www.butlercreek.us](http://www.butlercreek.us). [5]

**THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER** can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression and many more. Invest in your health, call 1-800-634-9355 for more information or visit [www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle](http://www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle). [5]



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**LOOKING FOR AUTHORS** who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844. [5]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion, and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423.236.2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies). [5]

**NORTH GEORGIA WELLNESS RETREATS** – Blue Creek Cabins Wellness & Spa is now offering 5-day retreats and spa packages. Located near picturesque town of Helen, our program features health lectures, cooking classes, spa services, gardening etc. Contact us: 706-865-0455, 706-865-1405, [www.bluecreekwellness.com](http://www.bluecreekwellness.com), [www.bluecreekcabins.com](http://www.bluecreekcabins.com). [5]

**GUEST LODGING AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** – Newly renovated 2 bed/1 bath apartments. Some with equipped kitchens. Available year round. To reserve call 423-236-7000 or email [guestlodging@southern.edu](mailto:guestlodging@southern.edu). [5]

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**WANTED:** The White Estate is looking for original photographs, personal items, or other artifacts relating to Ellen White for display in its new visitor center scheduled to open in 2015. To discuss your item(s) please contact James Nix at 301-680-6557 or [JimNix@WhiteEstate.org](mailto:JimNix@WhiteEstate.org). All messages about your items will be answered. [5]

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# Events Calendar

## Carolina

### Elders' Certification

Unit #1 (Elders' Duties) – May 2, 3. Arden, NC, Church.

Session #3 (Preaching) – June 14. Kernersville, NC, Church.

Session #4 (Evangelism) – June 21. Columbia, SC, Church.

**Parenting Seminar** – May 9, 10. Spartanburg, SC., Church.

**Hispanic Camp Meeting** – May 16-18. Nosoca Pines Ranch (NPR).

**MPA Graduation Weekend** – May 16-18. MPA.

**Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting** – May 25-June 1. Maggie Valley, NC.

**Pathfinder Award Ceremony** – May 31-June 1. Lake Junaluska. Maggie Valley, NC.

**Family Camp** – June 30-July 4. NPR.

## Florida

**Complete calendar online** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar/>

**Florida Pathfinder events** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/pathfinders/events/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.

**Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information.** Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/childrenandfamily/events/>, esalzmanna@cfl.rr.com, (407) 521-4751, or 407-721-3036.

### Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics

May 31. Kissimmee Spanish.

June 7. West Palm Beach Spanish.

Sept. 27. Sunrise.

### Florida Conference New Office Grand Opening

– June 1. 2:30 p.m. 351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs. Florida Conference will officially open its new headquarters with a ceremony including former Conference Presidents Lewis Hendershot and Gordon Retzer. Altamonte Springs Mayor Pat Bates is also scheduled to participate. Open house tours will follow the grand opening ceremony. Details: <http://www.floridaconference.com/>

steppingstone/ or 407-644-5000.

### Edible Schoolyard Teacher Academy

– June 11, 12. Orlando Junior Academy. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Participate in discussions and activities at OJA's Nutrition Science Lab and Garden to help you build your own garden and cooking curriculum. Theme: An Edible Education Experience. Speakers: Kevin Fonzo, Sarah Cahill, Brad Jones, Anna Adkins. Cost: \$300, includes lunches. Registration: \$50 deposit by June 1. Learn more about the Edible Schoolyard at <http://thegardenatoja.wordpress.com/>. Details: <http://bit.ly/oja-esy-academy>, janice.banks@oja-sda.com, or 407-898-1251.

**Impact Miami 2014** – June 22-29. Week-long mission trip to Miami. Ages 14+. Training an army of young people poised and ready to make an impact in the major urban centers of Florida through the Mission to the Cities initiative. Cost: \$289/person. Registration deadline: June 1. <http://www.floridaconference.com/reservations/?ee=63>

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Korean Camp Meeting** – May 16, 17. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA

**Last day of school** – May 16.

### Academy Graduations

May 16, 17. Georgia-Cumberland. Calhoun, GA.

May 17. Atlanta Adventist. Atlanta, GA.

May 18. Collegedale. Collegedale, TN.

### Health Rallies

May 17. Auburn, GA.

May 31. Odgen Road Church, Dayton, TN.

### Collegedale Camp Meeting

– May 21-24. Speakers Wednesday/Thursday: Elizabeth Talbot; and Friday/Sabbath: Roger Hernandez. Main events streamed live at [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com). Children's programs held in the Collegedale Church. For housing contact Sheila Flores, 800-567-1844, x351. Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN.

**Cohutta Springs Youth Camps, See page 39.**

**Olde Time Camp Meeting** – June 5-7. Meister Memorial Church, Deer Lodge, TN.

**Hispanic Messy Day** – June 8.

**Stewardship Sabbath** – June 14. Coalfield Church, Oliver Springs, TN.

Register online for Cohutta Springs Youth Camps at [cs-yc.com](http://cs-yc.com).

Online registration for events available at [www.registration.gccsda.com](http://www.registration.gccsda.com).

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Conference Executive Committee** – May 6.

Conference Office.

### Academy Boards

May 8. Highland Academy.

May 8. Madison Academy.

**Camp Meeting** – May 23-31. Highland Academy.

**Pathfinder Fair** – May 25. Highland Academy.

**Hispanic Camp Meeting** – June 6, 7. Highland Academy.

**Conference Executive Committee** – July 15.

Conference Office.

**Ministers' Meeting** – July 27-30. Indian Creek Camp.

**Hispanic Youth Retreat** – July 31-Aug. 3. Indian Creek Camp.

## Southern Adventist University

**SALT Evangelism Training** – June 22-29. The Summer SALT program covers the basics of personal and public evangelism, the evangelism cycle, and tools

for outreach in your local church and community. Designed for busy people looking for intense evangelism training. For more information visit [www.southern.edu/salt](http://www.southern.edu/salt).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**“YE OLDE” CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION** – June 6-8. Alumni and schoolmates of 1964 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, MI. Honor classes: 1934, '44, '54, '64. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information you may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net/>.

**WILDWOOD'S NATURAL REMEDIES SEMINAR “Weight Management: Lose, Gain, & Maintain”** – June 8-15. Details: [wildwoodhealth.org/seminars/home](http://wildwoodhealth.org/seminars/home), 800-844-1099.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION/Great American Backyard Campout** – June 28. Details: [www.nwf.org/news](http://www.nwf.org/news).

## Sunset

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30	June 6
Atlanta, GA	8:21	8:27	8:32	8:37	8:42	8:46
Charleston, SC	8:02	8:07	8:12	8:17	8:21	8:25
Charlotte, NC	8:09	8:15	8:21	8:26	8:31	8:35
Collegedale, TN	8:26	8:32	8:37	8:43	8:47	8:52
Huntsville, AL	7:32	7:37	7:43	7:48	7:53	7:57
Jackson, MS	7:42	7:47	7:52	7:57	8:01	8:05
Louisville, KY	8:35	8:41	8:47	8:53	8:59	9:03
Memphis, TN	7:46	7:52	7:57	8:02	8:07	8:11
Miami, FL	7:52	7:56	8:00	8:03	8:07	8:10
Montgomery, AL	7:27	7:32	7:37	7:41	7:46	7:50
Nashville, TN	7:35	7:41	7:47	7:52	7:57	8:01
Orlando, FL	8:01	8:05	8:09	8:14	8:17	8:21
Wilmington, NC	7:56	8:02	8:07	8:12	8:17	8:21

## Camp Meetings 2014 Schedule

### CAROLINA

Portions of Camp Meeting will be viewable at [www.carolinasa.org/camp-meeting](http://www.carolinasa.org/camp-meeting)  
 Hispanic.....May 16-18.....Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC  
 English.....May 25-31.....Theme: *FEARLESS/The Battle is the Lord's*..... Lake Junaluska, NC  
 Speaker/ Sunday-Wednesday: *Dan Rojason*  
 Speaker/ Thursday-Sabbath: *Jose Rojas*  
 Low Country Camp Meeting.....Oct. 18.....Summerville, SC, Community Church  
 Speaker/Seminar Presenter: *Derek Morris*  
 Eastern Carolina.....Oct. 25.....Greenville, NC, North Church  
 Speaker: *Jim Nix*  
 Musical Guest: *Charles Haugabrooks*

### FLORIDA

Florida Camp Meeting is held in the Spring. Archived sermon video is posted to [floridaconference.com/campmeeting](http://floridaconference.com/campmeeting)  
 English.....April 10-13.....Theme: *A Mighty Movement—Returning to the Cities*.....Camp Kulaqua, FL  
 Spanish.....April 18-20.....Theme: *Un gran movimiento—Evangelizad las ciudades*..Camp Kulaqua, FL

### GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

South Georgia.....April 4, 5.....Savannah First Church, Pooler, GA  
 Theme: *The Legacy: Ellen White as a Person and a Prophet*  
 Speaker: *Jud Lake*  
 Korean.....May 16, 17.....Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA  
 Collegedale.....May 21-24. Theme: *kNOW Fishing ...Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN*  
 Wednesday/Thursday Speaker: *Elizabeth Talbot*  
 Friday night/Sabbath morning Speaker: *Roger Hernandez*  
 Olde Time.....June 5-7.....Deer Lodge, TN  
 Speaker: *John Earnhardt*  
 Hispanic.....Aug. 22-24.....Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA  
 Southern Deaf Fellowship.....Aug. 6-10.....Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA  
 Speaker: *Alan Meis*  
 Northeast Tennessee.....Oct. 3, 4.....The Oaks, Greenville, TN  
 Speaker:

### GULF STATES

May 23-31.....Theme: *Jesus, the Master Evangelist*  
 Bass Memorial Academy, Lumberton, MS  
 Speaker 1st Sabbath: *Dan Jackson*  
 Evenings/ Monday-Friday: *Joe Cirigliano*  
 Speaker 2nd Sabbath: *Lonnie Melashenko*

### KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

English.....May 23-31.....Theme: *Look Up and Live*.....Highland Academy, Portland, TN  
 Speakers/Seminar Presenters: *Ed Dickerson, Pavel Goia, Lonnie Melashenko, Dwight Nelson, and Philip Samaan*  
 Hispanic.....June 6, 7.....Theme: *¡Mira hacia arriba y vive!*.....Highland Academy, Portland, TN  
 Speaker: *Jose Rojas*

### SOUTH ATLANTIC

June 5-14.....Theme: *Praying People in Praying Times*.....River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC  
 Speakers: *Michael B. Kelly and Henry Wright*

### SOUTH CENTRAL

Latino.....May 22-25.....Theme: *Pentcostes*.....Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL  
 English.....June 13-27.....Theme: *We're Blessed*.....Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL  
 Speakers:

### SOUTHEASTERN

English.....June 19-28.....Theme: TBA.....Hawthorne, FL  
 Adult/Main Pavilion  
 Speaker:  
 Youth Pavilion.....June 19-28.....Theme: TBA.....Hawthorne, FL  
 Speaker:  
 Haitian.....Dates: TBA.....Theme: TBA.....Hawthorne, FL  
 Speaker:

## Summer Camps 2014 Schedule

### CAROLINA

Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC  
 [Register online at [www.nosoca.org](http://www.nosoca.org)]  
 Traditional Camps  
 Adventure (ages 7-11)..... June 9-16  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-13)..... June 15-22  
 Teen (ages 13-16)..... June 22-29  
 Specialty Camps  
 Lifeguard Camp (ages 16 & up)..... May 20-23  
 SIT Camp (ages 16-17)..... June 1-13  
 Horsemanship I Camp (ages 12-16)..... June 8-15  
 Horsemanship II Camp (ages 12-16)..... June 15-22  
 Family Camp..... July 1-6  
 Extreme Week (ages 12-16)..... July 6-13  
 Horse Camp Trip (ages 14-17)..... July 13-20

### FLORIDA

Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL  
 [Details: <http://summercamp.campkulaqua.com/>]  
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9)..... June 1-8  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12)..... June 1-8  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16)..... June 1-8  
 Horsemanship Specialty Camp (ages 10-14)..... June 1-8  
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9)..... June 8-15  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12)..... June 8-15  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16)..... June 8-15  
 Horsemanship Specialty Camp (ages 10-14)..... June 8-15  
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9)..... June 15-22  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12)..... June 15-22  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16)..... June 15-22  
 Horsemanship Specialty Camp (ages 10-14)..... June 15-22  
 Staff in Training (ages 15-17).....(two-week track)..... June 8-22  
 Teen Mountain Adventure (ages 13-17)..... July 27-Aug. 3  
 Family Camp..... Aug. 29-Sept. 1

### GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Cohutta Springs Adventist Center, Crandall, GA  
 [Details: [www.cs-yc.com](http://www.cs-yc.com)]  
 Camp Staff Training..... May 22-May 31  
 Junior I (ages 10-12)..... June 1-8  
 Golf Camp I (ages 13-17)..... June 1-8  
 Paintball Camp I (ages 13-17)..... June 1-8  
 Rock Climbing Camp (ages 13-17)..... June 1-8  
 Fit for Life I (ages 10-13)..... June 1-20  
 Junior II (ages 10-12)..... June 8-15  
 Mountain Bike Trip (ages 13-17)..... June 8-15  
 Paintball Camp II (ages 13-17)..... June 8-15  
 S.I.T. Camp (ages 15+)..... June 8-15  
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-9)..... June 15-20  
 Paintball Camp III (ages 13-17)..... June 15-20  
 RAD Horse Trip (ages 13-17)..... June 15-20  
 Wakeboard Camp 1 (ages 13-17)..... June 15-20  
 C.I.T. Camp (ages 15+)..... June 15-20  
 Tween (ages 12-13)..... June 22-29  
 Ultimate RAD Camp (ages 13-17)..... June 22-29  
 Fit for Life II (ages 13-17)..... June 22-July 13  
 Teen I (ages 13-17)..... June 29-July 6  
 Rock Solid I (ages 16-18)..... June 29-July 6  
 Basketball Camp (ages 13-17)..... June 29-July 6  
 Rock Solid Basketball Camp (ages 16-18)..... June 29-July 6  
 Whitewater/Kayak Camp (ages 13-17)..... June 29-July 6  
 Gym-Masters Camp (ages 13-17)..... June 29-July 6  
 Gym-Masters Day Camp (ages 7-17)..... June 30-July 4  
 Teen II (ages 13-17)..... July 6-13  
 Rock Solid II (ages 16-18)..... July 6-13  
 Golf Camp II (ages 13-17)..... July 6-13  
 Soccer Camp (ages 13-17)..... July 6-13  
 Wakeboard Camp II (ages 13-17)..... July 6-13  
 Surf Camp (ages 13-17)..... July 13-20  
 Family Camp (all ages)..... July 15-20  
 W.I.T. Camp (ages 15+)..... Every week, June 1-July 13

### GULF STATES

Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL  
 [Details: [www.Alamisco.org](http://www.Alamisco.org)]  
 Camp Alamisco Staff Week..... May 25-31  
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-10)..... June 1-8  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12)..... June 8-15  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16)..... June 15-22  
 Native American Camp..... June 22-27  
 Family Camp (all ages)..... June 30-July 5

### KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

Indian Creek Camp, Liberty, TN  
 Staff-in-Training (ages 16, 17)..... June 1-8  
 Junior Camp 1 (ages 9-13)..... June 8-15  
 Junior Camp 2 (9-13)..... June 15-22  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-17)..... June 22-29  
 Family Camp I (all ages)..... July 1-6  
 Cub-Adventurer Camp (ages 7-9)..... July 6-13  
 Lifeguarding Camp (ages 15-18)..... July 6-11  
 Family Camp II (all ages)..... July 13-20  
 Blind Camp (all ages)..... July 20-27

### SOUTH ATLANTIC

River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC  
 Junior Bible/Summer Camp (ages 8-17)..... June 22-29

### SOUTH CENTRAL

Camp Thunderbird, Chattanooga, TN  
 Camp "Kids Rock" (ages 6-12)..... June 29-July 6  
 Ultimate Sports Camp (ages 8-17)..... July 6-13  
 Extreme Team Camp (ages 13-17)..... July 6-13

### SOUTHEASTERN

Southeastern Conference Campground, Hawthorne, FL  
 Junior/Summer Camp..... July 13-26

Change Service Requested

**SmartStart:** FREE tuition for first-time Southern undergrads from **July 28 to August 22, 2014.**  
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